

FluBytes (10.03.2008)

2008-2009 Influenza Season



Flu Vaccine: For Everyone, Every Year

“It’s a fact that the influenza vaccine saves lives by not only helping to prevent flu but also by preventing the serious complications that sometimes result from infection with influenza. I want everyone that’s recommended to get a vaccine to get one and for them to encourage their loved ones to get one too.” -CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding

In This Issue:

- New!** [Monthly Flu Posters are Now Available](#)
- New!** [MDCH Website for Businesses & the Workplace](#)
- New!** [Fifth Guy Campaign Available on Infection Control](#)
- New!** [MCIR Flu Assessment is Now Available](#)
- New!** [Families Fighting Flu Video on YouTube](#)
- New!** [Influenza-Filled MMWR Now Available](#)
- New!** [NFID Annual Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference](#)

[Key Points](#)

- [Flu Partners’ Update](#)
- [Seasonal Influenza Update](#)
- [Avian Influenza Update](#)
- [Pandemic Influenza Update](#)
- [Flu Newswire](#)

[Flu Surveillance Update](#)

[General Immunization Update](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Flu Resources](#)

[FluBytes Contact Information](#)

Key Points

Flu Partners' Update

New! MCIR Flu Assessment is Now Available

Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR)

The new influenza assessment is now available in MCIR. Any patients who have had flu reported in MCIR since September 1, 2008 will be re-assessed using this fall's influenza rules. For questions related to flu assessment, call the MCIR Helpdesk toll-free at 888-243-6652 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit www.MCIR.org.

New! Monthly Flu Posters are Now Available

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

To assist in your efforts to vaccinate 84% of the U.S. population against influenza, MDCH has created monthly posters targeted towards individuals and families. The posters are simple and straight to the point: get your flu vaccination this year and every year. Further, these posters should be utilized to foster efforts towards [extending the flu vaccination season](#) throughout the winter months and even into February and March. Use these posters in your clinics and community outreach efforts today!

- [August](#)
- [September](#)
- [October](#)
- [November](#)
- [December](#)
- [January](#)
- [February](#)
- [March](#)
- [April](#)



New! MDCH Website for Businesses & the Workplace

*Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH),
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)*

According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), workplaces are suffering from 'presenteeism,' rather than absenteeism. Survey respondents cited a number of economically-driven reasons for why they feel pressured to go to work despite being sick with the flu, such as being concerned about work not getting done in their absence (60%), feeling guilty for missing work (48%), and getting minimal or no sick pay (24%). To address this issue, visit the [new MDCH website](#) for helpful tools and resources.



New! Fifth Guy Campaign Available on Infection Control

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Florida Department of Health (DOH)



We all know a Fifth Person - the guy who doesn't wash his hands, the gal who shows up at work sick, the dude who sprays us with spittle. View the PSAs below for tips on how to drop just the right hint - how to say, "Hey, stop getting us all sick!"

[These materials](#) (scroll down to the bottom of this link), adapted from the Florida Department of Health, will be broadcast by the Michigan Department of Community Health during this upcoming flu season. Keep your eyes and ears open from November to January time frame,

when these PSAs will run statewide. Feel free to use these materials in any way you see fit - organizational newsletters, company-wide e-mails reminding employees to practice good infection control/hand hygiene during the flu season, and so on.

Remember: The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year.

Seasonal Influenza Update

FDA Approves 2008-09 Flu Vaccines (10/1/08)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Below are [flu vaccine lots](#) that have been released by FDA (as of October 1, 2008) which are available for distribution by the manufacturers. For information on flu vaccine distribution schedules, please contact the manufacturers directly.

Manufacturer	Trade Name	Total Number of Lots Released by FDA
CSL Limited	Afluria	26
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals	Fluarix	28
ID Biomedical Corporation of Quebec (Distributor of GSK)	Flulaval	38
MedImmune	FluMist	28
Novartis Vaccine	Fluvirin	44
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone	77

FDA Clears New CDC Test to Detect Human Influenza (9/30/08)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has [approved a new test](#) developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), called the Human Influenza Virus Real-Time RT-PCR Detection and Characterization Panel, that can detect flu viruses and tell the difference between seasonal and novel influenza strains. The device isolates and amplifies viral genetic material taken from a patient, and the material is labeled with fluorescent molecules. The molecules are then detected and analyzed by a diagnostic instrument called the Applied Biosystems 7500 Fast Dx. Several samples can be taken at once, with results available in four hours. The test will be available this fall to CDC-qualified laboratories, but reagents need to be regularly evaluated to ensure that the test is sensitive and specific enough to diagnose constantly changing flu viruses.

AAP Releases Policy Statement on Recommendations for Influenza Immunization of Children (9/29/08)

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

On September 8, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published a [policy statement](#) online (ahead of print) made by AAP's Committee on Infectious Diseases. Titled *Prevention of Influenza: Recommendations for Influenza Immunization of Children, 2008–2009*, this statement updates the recommendations for routine use of influenza vaccine in children and adolescents.

Vaccines Stand Ready for Flu Season (9/26/08)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA created a [helpful resource](#) to educate individuals and families about influenza. Topics include an explanation of the types of flu vaccine (LAIV and TIV), the six presentations of flu vaccine available this season, the process of creating the flu vaccine, as well as flu facts and information about health care personnel vaccination.

Influenza-Filled MMWR Now Available (9/26/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Vol. 57, No. 38

[This week's MMWR](#) is filled with influenza BRFSS, NIS, and sentinel surveillance data. Be sure to read the newly published influenza vaccination rates below.

[State-Specific Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Adults — United States, 2006–07 Influenza Season](#)

Data from the 2006 and 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveys indicate that influenza vaccination coverage among adults for the 2006-07 season increased significantly compared with the 2005-06 season. However, vaccination coverage remained well below Healthy People 2010 targets of 90% among all persons aged >65 years and 60% among persons aged 18–64 years who have one or more high-risk conditions.

[Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 6–23 Months — United States, 2006–07 Influenza Season](#)

This report, based on data from the 2007 National Immunization Survey (NIS), provides an assessment of influenza vaccination coverage among children aged 6–23 months during September–December of the 2006–07 influenza season. Nationally, 31.8% of children received 1 or more doses of influenza vaccine, and 21.3% were fully vaccinated, with substantial variability among states. The findings underscore the need to increase interest in and access to influenza vaccination for more children in the United States

[Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 6–59 Months — Eight Immunization Information System Sentinel Sites, United States, 2007–08 Influenza Season](#)

To assess vaccination coverage among children aged 6–59 months during the 2007–08 influenza season, CDC analyzed data from the eight immunization information system (IIS) sentinel sites. For the eight sites, an average (unweighted) of 40.8% of children aged 6–23 months received 1 or more influenza vaccine doses, and an average of 22.1% were fully vaccinated. Among children aged 24–59 months, an average of 22.2% received 1 or more doses, and an average of 16.5% were fully vaccinated. These results indicate that influenza vaccination coverage among children remains low and highlight the need to identify additional barriers to influenza vaccination and to develop more effective interventions to promote vaccination of children aged 6–59 months who are at high risk for influenza-related morbidity and mortality.

[Influenza Activity — United States and Worldwide, May 18–September 19, 2008](#)

This report summarizes influenza activity in the United States and worldwide since the last update and reviews the new influenza vaccine recommendations for the upcoming season. Influenza viruses circulating this summer appear antigenically similar to the strains included in the 2008–09 influenza vaccine. Recent antiviral resistance data are limited, but oseltamivir resistance among influenza A (H1N1) viruses might persist during the 2008–09 influenza season.

Now Available: NIVS Newsletter #5 of the 2008-09 Flu Season (9/26/08)

National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS)

The September 26, 2008 issue of the NIVS newsletter is now available. Included in the issue is information on the Healthcare Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) annual Influenza Vaccine Production and Distribution Market Brief (detailing the 2007-2008 season), which will be released at the end of this month. Visit www.FluSupplyNews.com for additional news and resources on influenza vaccine distribution.

Additionally, on September 24, Families Fighting Flu (FFF) launched the 2008 campaign for [Say Boo to the Flu](#). This campaign was first started in 2007 to great success. FFF will be staging the campaign at 12 different cities in the United States. On the same day, FFF also relaunched [a new and expanded Web site](#).

To read learn more about the summit, visit www.preventinfluenza.org

Families Fighting Flu Video on YouTube (9/24/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Families Fighting Flu (FFF)

A video vignette entitled [Why Flu Vaccination Matters](#) is available on YouTube. This powerful six and half-minute video, created by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) in collaboration with Families Fighting Flu (FFF), features the personal stories of parents who have tragically lost or nearly lost a child to the flu. The video intertwines the stories of these parents with the facts about influenza as explained by Dr. Jeanne Santoli, Deputy Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC and was directed by Emmy award-winning Mustapha Khan, creator of "House on Fire," and Emmy-nominated Tommy Walker, co-director of "God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of Lost Boys of Sudan."

NFID Annual Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference (9/24/08)

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)

On Wednesday, September 24, 2008, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) in collaboration with the National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Medical Association (AMA), and AARP held a [press conference](#) to urge annual flu vaccination for nearly 85 percent of Americans.

A [press release](#), [agenda](#), [map of nationwide coverage rates](#), as well as a wealth of resources are available at the NFID [press conference](#) website. Be sure to register and view these resources today.

Current Issues in Immunization Net Conference on Influenza (9/18/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Power Point presentations are now available from the [Current Issues in Immunization Net Conference on Influenza](#). Originally aired on September 18, 2008, this net conference focused on seasonal influenza recommendations and communication campaigns for 2008-09. Be sure to view the presentations below today.

- [Vaccine Supply](#) - Andrew Kroger, MD, MPH
- [Communication Campaign](#) - Alan Janssen, MSPH

Avian Influenza Update

For the most up-to-date avian influenza surveillance activity, see the [MI Flu Focus Report](#) or the [MI Avian Flu Website](#)

Pandemic Influenza Update

Participate in HHS Plan First Webcasts

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

In March of 2008, HHS launched PlanFirst, a regular Webcast series on pandemic planning. The goal of the PlanFirst Webcasts is to help states, local communities, employers, faith-based and civic organizations, and families and individuals learn more about pandemic planning. Be sure to tune in to the next Webcast, which is scheduled for October 29, 2008, at 1:00 pm ET. Archived Webcasts are available on the following topics: [Individual Preparedness](#), [Planning for Home Health Care Agencies](#), [Workplace Preparation](#), and [State Planning](#).

Flu Newswire

The Never-Ending Story: Flu Vaccine Season Goes Year-Round (10/6/08)

American Medical Association (AMA), AMNews

After several rocky seasons, this year's stock of influenza vaccine has been [arriving on time](#), or even before physicians expected it. "This year was good news," said Stuart Sanders, MD, an internist and sports medicine physician in Demorest, Ga. "There was no problem getting our full shipment of flu vaccine."

Getting influenza vaccine to physicians is a long process full of variables that can throw it off [schedule](#). But after several years of instability, supplies are more reliable for the 2008-09 season, with 143 million to 146 million doses expected. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS), 132-133 million eggs are required to produce vaccine for the 2008-09 season and 122 laboratories representing 94 countries participate in WHO's Global Influenza Surveillance Network. There have been 39 changes since 1972 in the influenza vaccine formulation.

It's Time to Get Smart about the Use of Antibiotics (10/2/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Each year, health care providers in the U.S. prescribe tens of millions of antibiotics for viral infections. To bring attention to this [increasing problem](#), CDC will be observing the *Get Smart About Antibiotics Week* October 6-10, 2008. [The campaign](#) will highlight the coordinated efforts of the agency, states, non-profit partners, and for-profit partners to educate the public about antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic use.

Flu Vaccine is in Ample Supply for Cold Season (9/25/08)

The Detroit News

Just about everybody needs a flu vaccine -- unless you're an infant or a healthy adult hermit -- but far too few of the Americans who need protection the most get it. That's the message as flu-shot season officially began Wednesday with a call for a record number to be inoculated -- including 30 million more school-age children than ever before targeted. "People should start getting vaccinated now, yesterday actually," added Dr. William Schaffner, president-elect of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

Flu Surveillance Update

Michigan Surveillance

The MI Flu Focus is archived on www.michigan.gov/flu. The most current edition **is attached**. To find out about influenza activity in the U.S., visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO (9/10/08)

World Health Organization (WHO)

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_09_10/en/index.html

General Immunization Update

Immunization Information System 101: What Every Program Manager Should Know (9/23/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

A [new course is available](#) for immunization program managers. The course describes the nature, benefits, and basic functions of Immunization Information Systems (IIS) to both the IIS and immunization communities. The target audience for this course includes: new IIS managers and immunization program managers; newly hired state and local IIS staff, such as programmers, recruiters, and trainers; and immunization program staff, such as health educators, surveillance staff, and epidemiologists.

Upcoming Events

3rd Annual National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Date: December 8-14, 2008

Purpose: This [event](#) is designed to highlight the importance of continuing flu vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond. NIVW is about immunizing more vulnerable people - not about having more time to immunize the same patient base. Special activities should be focused on children, seniors, and health care workers on the days listed below.

- Tuesday, December 9 – Children’s Flu Vaccination Day
- Thursday, December 11 – Senior Vaccination Day
- Friday, December 12 – Healthcare Worker Vaccination Day

If you are planning an activity during NIVW or later to encourage influenza vaccination, [CDC would like to hear from you!](#) Please take a few moments to let CDC know about your activities.

Flu Resources

ALA Flu Clinic Locator Is Now Live (9/16/08)

American Lung Association (ALA)

The ALA Flu Clinic Locator went live on September 16, 2008. In order to facilitate collaboration among all flu vaccinators within your community, please be sure to enter your flu clinics in the ALA Flu Clinic Locator at www.flucliniclocator.org. If you are a professional looking to [have your clinics listed on the Flu Clinic Locator](#), learn more by clicking "All About The Flu Clinic Locator" from the bar on the left. As part of being on the locator, those offering clinics will need to undergo a brief 10-minute training so that they can update the information pertaining to their clinics regularly. The ALA locator also provides a link to clinics that are being offered by public health departments and facilities.

MDCH Flu Website Updates for the 2008-09 Season

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

To navigate your way to the 2008-09 flu materials, visit www.michigan.gov/flu and click on seasonal flu → information for specific groups (health professionals) → [newly updated materials and messages for the 2008-2009 influenza season](#).

This year's theme, "Flu Vaccine: For Every One, Every Year" focuses on the importance of vaccinating the entire community against influenza, in order to protect those that are most vulnerable, with special efforts made this year to vaccinate school-aged children 6 months through 18 years of age.



For up-to-the minute, Michigan-specific flu information and resources, check out the flu website today. A wealth of information is available on where to get vaccinated, what to do if you get sick, where to find clinical laboratory and reporting information, as well as flu information for [community vaccinators](#), [school and child care settings](#), [individuals and families](#), and [businesses and the workplace](#).

Volunteers Needed NOW for Influenza Surveillance

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

Contact Rachel Potter at 517-335-9710 or potterr1@michigan.gov for more information or to enroll now.

Flu Advisory Board (FAB)

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

MDCH would like to extend an invite for any interested health care professional to become involved in the [Flu Advisory Board \(FAB\)](#). To join FAB, contact Courtney McFeters, Influenza Health Education Coordinator at McFetersC@michigan.gov.

Take the Flu Vaccination Challenge

Joint Commission Resources (JCR)

The *Flu Vaccination Challenge* begins September 1, 2008 and continues through the flu season to May 2009. Take a few minutes to register your hospital today by visiting www.FluVaccinationChallenge.com. Use the [Flu Fighter Action Kit](#) to assist in your planning efforts.

Start Planning Now: Utilize the Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

Available online, the kit offers a step-by-step approach, including ready-to-use materials such as planning templates, a campaign calendar and timeline, and flu educational resources to help you reach everyone in your health care organization. Remember, anyone who shares air with patients should be vaccinated against influenza.

Become a Flu Fighter. Visit: www.michigan.gov/flufighterkit



A Note About FluBytes:

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. An archived list of past FluBytes issues can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_22779-125027--,00.html

This newsletter is distributed to local health departments, Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Coordinators, members of the Michigan Advisory Committee on Immunizations (MACI), Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM), and representatives of the Flu Advisory Board (FAB).
